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SOURCE

Bashkimi.

BUDGET STRESSES INDUSTRIAL CROPS; CONSUMERS' RATIONS INCREASED

SCORES FAILURE OF INDUSTRIAL CROP PLAN -- Bashkimi, No 1630, 16 Mar 50

Speaking before the People's Kuvend on 15 March, Gaqo Tashko, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, reported the following:

The central problem of agriculture today is the spring planting, and especially the planting of industrial crops. Last year, the plan for industrial planting failed badly, causing serious failures in the state plan and the state budget. At present, the spring planting is progressing well, and in many villages the plan for industrial planting is being exceeded. However, continual efforts will be necessary throughout the growing and harvest season if the plan is to be fulfilled.

In 1950, 8 million forest trees will be planted and 1,000 hectares of forest will be improved. Six new experimental forests will be planted with fast-growing trees, especially eucalyptus, from the USSR.

The 1950 state budget provides for 44 percent greater national and 132 percent greater local investments in agriculture and forestry than were actually spent in 1949. Expenditures for farm workers' housing and mess halls will be 28 percent greater than in 1949.

The budget calls for the continuation of the major reclamation projects of Maliq, Beden, and Myzeqe, and the Hoxhare Canal in Fier. Efforts must be made to finish these projects on time. Last year, the Myzeqe Canal was completed far behind schedule, and thousands of quintals of corn and cotton were lost as a result.

MORE CONSUMERS' GOODS AVAILABLE -- Bashkimi, No 1630, 16 Mar 50

In a speech before the People's Kuvend on 15 March, Kico Ngjela, Minister of Commerce, announced that rations of consumers' goods in 1950 would show the following increases over 1949: cotton 86.6 percent, woolens 50.4, hosiery 114,

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shoes 163, peasants' sandals 1, sugar 29.4, edible paste products 90.1, rice and beans 218, and fats 14. These increases are the result of increased domestic production and imports from the USSR and the People's Democracies.

The Minister of Commerce announced that the turnover of goods in the state and cooperative sectors would show the following increases this year over 1949: manufactured goods 57 percent, shoes and sandals 21, clothing 50, sugar 29.4, fats 57, edible paste products 119, cereals 28, meat 60, eggs 20.9, and beans 108

- END -

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